United Nations CCPR/SP/SR.37

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Distr.: General
30 May 2012

Original: English

Meeting of the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Thirty-first Meeting

Summary record of the 37th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 1 May 2012, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chairperson: Mr. Radcliff ..... (Representative of the Secretary-General)
Chairperson: Mr. Kolga ..... (Estonia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General

1. **The Temporary Chairperson**, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, said that the purpose of the meeting was to elect, in accordance with Part IV of the Covenant, one member of the Human Rights Committee, as a result of the untimely death of Mr. Abdelfattah Amor of Tunisia, whose term was due to expire on 31 December 2014. He expressed his condolences and praised Mr. Amor's conscientious work on the Committee. He recalled that nine members of the Committee would be elected at the 32nd Meeting of States parties, to replace those members whose term of office would end on 31 December 2012. The regular update on developments relating to the Covenant and the work of the Committee would also be provided at that meeting, to be held on 6 September 2012.

Election of the Chairperson

2. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) nominated Mr. Kolga (Estonia) for the office of Chairperson.

3. *Mr. Kolga (Estonia) was elected Chairperson by acclamation.*

4. *Mr. Kolga (Estonia) took the Chair.*

Adoption of the agenda (CCPR/SP/78)

5. *The agenda was adopted.*

6. **The Chairperson** drew attention to rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure (CCPR/SP/2/Rev.1). Rule 2 provided that the credentials of representatives and the names of delegation members should be submitted to the Secretary-General not later than one week before a Meeting, and that such credentials should be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The content of that rule had been communicated to States parties by the Secretary-General in his note of 3 April 2012, but a number of States parties had not yet submitted credentials.

7. He suggested that, in accordance with rule 3, the States parties in question should be entitled provisionally to participate in the Meeting. He urged those representatives to ensure that their credentials were submitted to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

8. *It was so decided.*

Election of other officers of the meeting

9. **The Chairperson** said that Mr. Yudha (Indonesia) and Mr. Lundkvist (Sweden) had been nominated for the office of Vice-Chairperson.

10. *Mr. Yudha (Indonesia) and Mr. Lundkvist (Sweden) were elected Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation.*

Election, in accordance with articles 28 to 34 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of one member of the Human Rights Committee to replace Abdelfattah Amor, who passed away on 2 January 2012 and whose mandate is due to expire on 31 December 2014 (CCPR/SP/79)

11. **The Chairperson** said that, pursuant to article 33, paragraph 2, and article 34, paragraph 1, of the Covenant, the Secretary-General had declared the seat of Mr. Abdelfattah Amor (Tunisia) vacant following his death, and by a note verbale of 24 January 2012, had invited States Parties to submit nominations to fill that vacancy. He drew attention to article 29 to 31, which concerned the election of members of the Human Rights Committee. He also drew attention to the list of candidates (CCPR/SP/79) and noted that Senegal had withdrawn its candidate, Mr. Gaye, on 25 April 2012 and that the Philippines had withdrawn its candidate, Mr. Manuel, on 4 April 2012, leaving a single candidate, Mr. Ben Achour from Tunisia. He suggested, therefore, that the Meeting should decide to dispense with a secret ballot and elect Mr. Ben Achour by acclamation.

12 *It was so decided.*

13. *Mr. Ben Achour (Tunisia) was elected a member of the Human Rights Committee by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2014.*

14. **Mr. Jerandi** (Tunisia) said he was grateful to all who had expressed their condolences for the death of Mr. Amor, who had been an eminent figure and outstanding advocate in Tunisia and had served his country and the United Nations with dedication. He was especially thankful to the delegations of the Philippines and Senegal, which had chosen to withdraw their candidates when Tunisia had presented Mr. Ben Achour's candidacy. Mr. Ben Achour was a distinguished legal expert and would serve the Committee well.

Other matters

15. **The Chairperson** said that, in the absence of any other matters, he declared closed the thirty-first Meeting of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.